

Remarks

The rejection of the claims in the above noted office action is respectfully traversed. I take issue with the examiner on his interpretation of the words "Slide" and of "Bearing", and of "Shaft", .

I submit that his interpretation of '515 is unjustified and I believe mistaken.

The examiner states that in 515 the "shaft", (what shaft ??) goes "through a bearing opening etc" (what bearing and what opening??).

The examiner states that the "shaft" will "slide" through the "bearing opening"

10 Where does 515 say any of this??

Where does 515 use the phrase "bearing opening" ??.

Where does 515 say "shaft"??

Where does 515 say "slide"??

There is no such "bearing opening" in 515

There is no such "shaft" in 515.

The examiner has not referred to either item by number. His explanation has no point of reference to 515 at all.

His explanation is obscure and impossible to understand.

515 states col 2 line 65 67 that the

20 "First and second worm gears are threaded through the first and second support members".

Where are the "bearing openings" mentioned by the examiner.??

There are none. They are a fiction.

Where are the "shafts" mentioned by the examiner.?

There are none.

A threaded member 12 or 14 (member) cannot be at the same time a "bearing opening".

The Examiner refers to "shaft".

515 does not mention "shaft"

The examiner refers to "slide"

515 does not mention "slide"

The Examiner suggests that 515 "clearly describes the motor etc"

Quite plainly the description is anything but clear.

There is no illustration of any structure which might transmit movement from the motor 42 to the worm gears 44 and 46, for which the examiner has selected the different terminology, "shafts", to better suit his argument .

The word "shaft" is not used in 515 at all.

10 The correctly described "worm gears 44 and 46, " (incorrectly referred to by the Examiner as "shafts") cannot move the two members 12 and 14 towards each other.

44 and 46 are described as "worm gears" (not shafts).

Worm gears 44 and 46 are said to "turn" Col 3 line 1

If these WORM GEARS 44 and 46 "turn" they will move both member 12 and member 14 in the same direction.

These worm gears 44 and 46 cannot turn so as to move the bars 12 and 14 in opposite directions.

20 Please note that my words are taken directly from the actual text of 515.

I have not chosen to change the words of the patent into something else to suit an argument. I am taking the text of 515 as it stands, unchanged.

A copy of the actual patent text is attached here for simple comparison.

A similar force is applied when the first surface plate 16 moves towards the third lug 40, except the first portion 32 provides the restraining force. The restraining force is negligible during grasping, but acts to restore the first surface plate 16 to an equilibrium position after the object is released.

The apparatus 10 can also include means for moving the first jaw 12 and the second jaw 20 such that the first and second jaws can move toward each other and grip the object or move away from each other and release the object. The moving means can be, for instance, a motor 42 disposed in the structure 26 which is connected to a first worm gear 44 and a second worm gear 46. The first worm gear 44 and second worm gear 46 are threaded through the first support member 14 and second support member 22 such that depending on the

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direction the worm gears turn determines whether the first jaw 12 and second jaw 20 move toward or away from each other.

The mere fact that the inventor describes a form of movement of his members 12 and 14 as being **desirable**, is no more a disclosure than if he had said it is desirable to turn lead into gold.

The examiner suggests that his incorrectly named "shafts" 44 46, (which are not shafts but are worm gears,) can "slide" (a word not found in 515) through the "bearing openings", (not found in 515) as described above"

This is **NOT** a quote from the text of 515 at all.

Where then is this quotation coming from??

10 The Examiner is quoting his own misuse use of the terms "bearing opening" and "shaft" , and "slide" **from his own words in his own previous office action.**

The text of 515 nowhere uses either "shaft" or "bearing opening", or "slide".

It is submitted that the examiner is quite simply rewriting the text of 515 to suit his own ends.

The Examiner is placing an unreasonable and unconscionable burden upon this Applicant by

- 1 misquoting the text of 515, and ignoring the actual words, and by
- 2 altering terminology of 515 to suit his own argument, and by
3. by alleging some connection between a motor 42 and worm gear 44 and 46
- 4 suggesting that a worm gear can somehow "slide through a thread" in a bar

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This last suggestion is contradicted by almost any dictionary.

Oxford Concise, page 1076 ,..... "Slide"

"progress along a smooth surface with continuous friction on same part of object progressing..." "Worm Gears " do not "slide" through "Threads".

I respectfully request that the examiner shall explain fully and in detail just where his language has any reference to the prior art , and in particular to 515 which is relied upon by him for his argument.

It would be helpful to read the actual wording of 515 and not to make changes.

TWO NEW NAMES??

Page 6 , Para 9

The examiner has mentioned in Page 6, para 9, two additional names Zoeten and Pessina. These names have not been mentioned before.

These names are not shown in any notice of references that I have seen.

In the recent office action , In page 1 , attachments

Box 1 Notice of References , has NOT been checked off.

The examiner has not given me any numbers, of these names.

Copies of these names have not been supplied to me .

10 It is not possible for me to interpret the examiners observations regarding these two names.

However I have revised Claim 10 to refer to the fact that the first pair of slide rods are secured to the first pair of clamp bars, and the second pair of slide rods are secured to the second pair of clamp bars.

I also state that the first pair of rods move in one direction and that the second pair of rods move in a direction opposite to the first pair.

There is absolutely nothing in 515 or any other patent, the number of which has been supplied to me by the examiner in this file, which suggests any such attachment or any such movement, of pairs of rods in opposite directions.

20 Attached with this response are two photographs .

These show upper and under views of the gripper head.

I hope that these may better enable the examiner to understand the nature of my invention.

They may be destroyed after he is finished with them. I do not require them back.

Reconsideration and allowance is earnestly solicited in view of the foregoing. In the event that the Examiner feels that a discussion of the case would be helpful it is respectfully requested that he call the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Yours respectfully,

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5 September 2003

CLAIMS LIST

Claims 1 to 9 cancelled

10. (Currently amended) Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing said groups into boxes, and comprising;

a gripper body member;

a first and a second pair of slide rods supported on said gripper body member;

a first pair of clamp bars slideable along said first pair of said slide rods;

a second pair of clamp bars slideable along said second pair of said slide rods, relative to said first pair of clamp bars;

10 fastening means securing said first pair of clamp bars to said second pair of slide rods;

fastening means securing said second pair of clamp bars to said first pair of slide rods;

and,

means for moving said first pair of slide rods in one direction while simultaneously moving said second pair of slide rods in the opposite direction to said first pair of slide rods, thereby sliding said first and second said pairs pair of clamp bars along said first pair of slide rods, and sliding said second pair of clamp bars along said second pair of slide rods, and moving said first and second pairs of clamp bars
20 towards one another into a gripping position and away from one another into a releasing position.

11. (Previously presented) Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 10 and including bearing openings in said clamp bars, and wherein said slide rods extend through respective said bearing openings thereby to permit said sliding of said clamp bars along respective said pairs of said slide rods..

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12. (Currently amended) Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 11 and wherein said first pair of clamp bars are secured by screw means to said second pair of said slide rods, and wherein second pair of said clamp bars are secured to said first pair of said slide rods by screw means, said screw means thereby preventing sliding of respective said pairs of clamp bars relative to respective said slide bars to which they are secured.

13. (Previously presented) Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 12 and wherein each of said first pair of slide rods are moveable to move said second pair of clamp bars, and wherein each of said second pair of slide rods are moveable to move said first pair of clamp bars.

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14. (Previously presented) Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 13 and including a head plate, and two side walls depending downwardly therefrom, slide openings in said side walls for receiving said first and second pairs of slide rods therethrough, and power means

supported by said head plate and operatively connected to respective first and second pairs of clamp bars.

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15. (Previously presented) Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 14 and including rods extending from said power means, and being connected to said first and second pairs of clamp bars, and being operable to move said first and said second pairs simultaneously towards or away from one another.

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Claims 16 to 20 cancelled.

cont.
Claim 21 (Previously presented) Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 11 and wherein said first pair of clamp bars comprises an end clamp bar and an intermediate clamp bar, wherein said end clamp bar in said first pair is secured to said second pair of said slide rods, and wherein said second pair of said clamp bars comprises an end clamp bar and an intermediate clamp bar wherein said end clamp bar in said second pair is secured to said first pair of said slide rods.

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Claim 22 (Previously presented) Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 21 and including first and second frame

plates connected to respective said intermediate clamp bars in respective first and second pairs.

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Claim 23 (Previously presented) Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 22 and including rods extending from said power means, and being connected to said first and second frame plates and being operable to procure relative movement of said first and said second pairs of clamp bars simultaneously towards or away from one another.

Claim 24 (Previously presented) Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 21 and including third and fourth pairs of said clamp bars.

Claim 25 (Previously presented) Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 21 and including fastening devices extending between said first clamp bars and said second pair of slide rods, and fastening devices extending between said second clamp bars and said first pair of slide rods.
